

SPOKE



Conestoga College, Monday, April 21, 1986



Robert Martin/Spoke

Curling up

Jennifer Coles placed 17th overall in the class C division of the OFSAA gymnastic championships held at the Conestoga Centre on April 11 and 12.

Story on page 4.

Electronics students give voice to the disabled

By David Williams

As part of a third-year project, Doon electronics students have developed systems to make computers more accessible and useful to the physically disabled.

Four groups embarked on a year-long investigation and implementation in the areas of voice recognition, voice synthesis and keyboard feedback as part of their final year project.

Thorsten Splett, Jeff Taylor and Ehler Hollatz spent their year developing a voice recognition headset that, when attached to a computer, allows the physically disabled person to use voice commands where physical movement is impossible.

"We spent a lot of time in class, as well as a lot of time outside of class, working on it," said Splett. Splett said the voice recognition headset has a vocabulary of 65 words and cost between \$200 and \$250. "Some words are really close," said Splett.

Jan Scherbarth and Mike Vol designed a voice synthesizer at a cost of approximately \$275.

Scherbarth said the synthesizer has two male, two female and one child's voice. Vol said the female voice may be used in situations where a male voice makes the physically disabled person uncomfortable.

A keyboard emulator and enhancer designed to provide feedback to people who have lost the senses needed to

operate a computer was designed by Paul Fangrad and Paul Silva. Fangrad said the device "fools the computer into thinking there's a keyboard" and is especially useful for the blind.

Allan Smith and Scott Campbell developed an environmental control machine that allows the physically disabled person to operate lights or appliances.

Hunking said he has started to work on varsity sports since the scheduling comes up in about a month. He and Colussi want to reduce admission prices to pubs, and plan to work on it in later weeks.

Mason said Hunking has asked him and Runstedler to get involved in DSA activities.

"I think we've put in this much time and there's no sense now in turning our backs and walking away. We made a commitment when we started, and we're going to help in some way. It's just a matter of how he wants us to get involved."

There was a 32-per-cent turnout of voters, an eight-per-cent increase over last year's 24 per cent.

Sorbara: college must grow

By Virginia Wilson

Community colleges, particularly Conestoga, must expand to keep pace with economic growth and serve communities better, Minister of Colleges and Universities Gregory Sorbara said at a press conference at Doon Campus April 14.

But Sorbara said his ministry must weigh financial demands of each of Ontario's 22 community colleges.

Sorbara met President Kenneth Hunter and the directors of Conestoga's five other campuses. After touring part of the Guelph campus, Sorbara talked with selected college personnel in the Doon Campus guild room.

A number of colleges need renovation and modernization, because the use of facilities has changed over two decades, Sorbara said. "The community college system was created over the past 20 years, and built about the same time.

Sorbara said that from what he had seen here, Conestoga was operating at capacity.

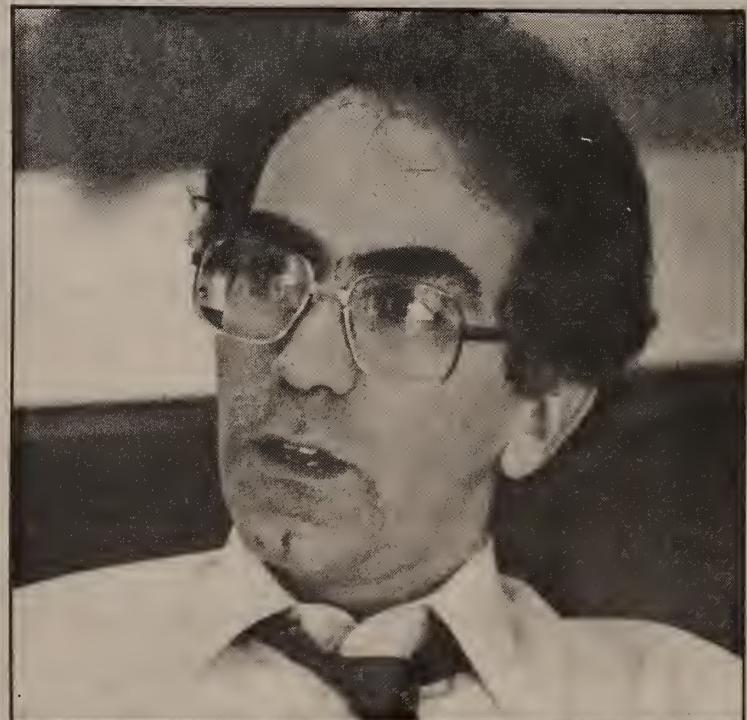
The ministry is considering capital requests from each college, and Sorbara said colleges will need allotments by the end of May. He said he did not discuss specific figures with Conestoga personnel, but, "Faculty and administration point out to me that there are important things that will not be done in the absence of sufficient resources."

Sorbara said they also discussed the present funding formula, which forces colleges to mount necessary programs with funds that won't be available for two years.

Tuition could pay a larger percentage of education in the future, but student assistance might also have to be modified to prevent tuition from becoming a barrier for students.

Before the press conference began, Sorbara could be overheard telling one college representative that he realized colleges need more money.

"I know you need more funds to deal with needs and we'll continue to be responsive to that dynamic . . . but who are



Rodney Gilchrist/Spoke
Minister of Colleges and Universities Greg Sorbara at Doon.

we going to take it away from, community and social services, or the desperate needs of our farming community? We can all clearly identify our needs. It's a good design for an affluent, competitive North American society. What we haven't done is to say 'my needs are pressing, but your needs are more, so it goes to you.'"

OPINION

SPOKE

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What price freedom?

It is that time of the year again, when the clouds of nostalgia float silently over my head, and the sweet fragrance of spring brings back so many memories of home, whose sight I have been deprived of for almost six years now.

It is at this time of the year that I long to be home and walk down the streets, smell the sweet scent of the orange blossoms, and join with the people to celebrate the coming of spring. But alas I am deprived of that too and only the Lord knows when I shall be able to return to that wonderful land again.

I had to leave behind my home, family and friends in order to have what you (Canadians) have. You are the most fortunate people of the world when it comes to human rights and freedom. Rights that in most countries of the world would be considered a luxury, have been taken for granted here.

In Canada you have the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that guarantees all the fundamental freedoms of human life. Look at section seven of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person, and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice." Something unheard of where I come from, where freedom has lost its meaning altogether. You have these freedoms all for free and I had to pay a price too high to obtain it, therefore I appreciate it more than you do.

I am amazed that such a gift of freedom has been taken for granted. You are not aware of what you have in this country. Perhaps you will learn to appreciate what you have, only after you have lost it for a short time. In a way all humans are like that. We never understand the value of what we have until we have lost it.

There is no need to wait until someone comes along and takes your freedom away to make you appreciate what you have.

Since this is one of the last issues of Spoke that our class will be publishing, I thought it a good time to write how I feel about the two years I have spent in Canada.

It also seems like a good opportunity to thank Canada and the Canadian government for helping the war ridden people of the world put their lives back together.

By Atusa Nemat



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I am writing to clarify information contained in an article (April 7) regarding a DSA proposal for student lounge renovations.

The proposal as submitted to the college totalled \$6,000 for the replacement of furniture, not \$5,000 as stated in your article. Of this total, \$1,000 would be paid to the college upon acceptance of our proposal. This gesture would serve to show our support and signify

our commitment to the project.

The remaining \$5,000 would be paid when all the furniture is actually received. As stated in the article, the funds which would be utilized for renovation purposes would be derived from the Spoke's production cost savings. These have resulted from a revision to the typesetting process.

Secondly, as a condition of our proposal, we have indicated that we require a response

from the college by April 30, 1986. As well, we would require that all renovations be completed by December 31, 1986.

The college budgetary process has absolutely nothing to do with either the April or December deadlines, nor did I at any time provide such an indication.

Thank you for the opportunity to set the record straight.

Yours truly,
 Phil Olinski,
 Business Manager (DSA)

Sex, secrets - something for everyone

By Jeffrey Wm. Coleman

Though sex (lovenaking) can be twisted, dark, mysterious, even dangerous, most of the time sex is a sunrise.

Something has got to be wrong with sex.

Society, my conscience (a resident for 23 years inside my head), says; "There is nothing wrong with sex as long as it is between two consenting adults."

Notice there is no mention of gender; society allows homosexuality. Homosexuality is no longer recognized as a deviation; it is recognized as an alternate lifestyle. It is not a threat to the heterosexual, as long as there is equal respect for each other's rights. No, gay

people are not what is wrong with sex. We may enjoy sex just too much.

Sex before marriage, extramarital sex, may get us into a lot of trouble when we enjoy sex too much, but there is something else: we treat sex like it was one huge secret. We shouldn't, not with the pill and advanced sex education to guide responsible adults.

Even for the responsible adult, sex is a direct line to something basic; sex is a direct line to something fundamental. The imprint on the genes is so strong that some find the animalism that waits worthy of an exorcism.

Some fight sex with celibacy. Others join it with orgies. Some wander through it, as though a great amount of sex lies undisturbed in an antique store.

What we are taught about sex is wrong.

Sadly, in my time as a child we were led to believe (through the media) that sex and love were related, and they're not (though they can be).

Love and sex being the same thing is a popular misconception, one of many that all media perpetuate in one fashion or another, and unless the media are educated, guidelines set, sexism (on the part of a newspaper like the Toronto Sun) and other such deterrents to a better understanding of each other, will continue.

At the sides of my computer terminal are two students in computer programming/analysis (CP/A). Both are female, both feel that because of the

sexual revolution, the intimacy that can be experienced during sex is not there.

"It has nothing to do with age or maturity, there is an attitude problem..

I'd rather do without, because it's better than coming out of it lonelier than how you went in . . . nobody bothers to take the time . . . people are interested in sex, not love."

For those looking in this confused world for love, for intimacy in sex (for those who lose it in a one night stand), there are no rules, no guidebooks to help them, but maybe there should be.

Outside of the misconceptions, the animalism, sex can be fun. There is nothing wrong with it. It has come a long way through ignorance and it will go farther with education.

ENTERTAINMENT

Tribute to U2 worthwhile

By Jeffrey Wm. Coleman

It was 8:30 p.m., April 10, the lights were still on in the cafeteria at Doon campus and the roadies and crew were just setting up the stage for the Summer Madness Pub.

It was 9:00 and the lights were still on, but the band had begun at last. Harsh reality still throbbed because of neon lights.

It was Fire Dance Overture performing -- Andy White on drums, Dave Barrett on bass, Scott Drapper on guitar, and Dave Robertson on throat, releasing their brand of sincere energy. At first the energy of Fire Dance Overture was inconsistent. They were good, they were record-track-similar, but their energy waned sour and desperate and distortion ran rampant next to plastic cups of Foster's beer.

Without the political and religious background of U2, renditions of them are just that, renditions but, what the heck -- at parts Fire Dance Overture were good, again sincere, putting forth valuable energy to convince the crowd that they weren't going to be rejected.

They gave a good rendition of She Sells Sanctuary, the meal-ticket of the Cult. And blues? They even had an impressive guitar solo to ride shotgun with the snow that had returned that night.

Here is a good band, Toronto-based, touring Southern Ontario promoting U2.

Are they doing it for the dollars?

"We're doing it for good carpeting, cognac and for a girl at the door."

"But, we'll settle for a rug and Jack Daniels."

For musicians who've been in music all their lives, originating from places like England, Toronto, Montreal, and Hamilton, Fire Dance Overture have an earnest desire to bring their original music forward.

"In six months we've broken into places it's taken other bands years to break into. We're a hard-working band."

"We had 25 original tunes before we started playing U2... we know some people are interested in our original work... we've been doing tours..."

"We're waiting!"

Band members said in an

interview (after their show) that they're touring to get enough money to produce original songs.

They played only one original tune at the pub April 10 -- Poetry Of Crime. It came and went. They had scheduled 10 original songs and planned on introducing them to the crowd slowly, but because the public announcement system, in Dredringer's truck that had left Kingston rather late, Fire Dance Overture was forced to go on, cutting half an hour from the group's play list.

It was their first time at Conestoga and they appreciated the crowd. "They liked us. They liked U2. Sometime it is a real heavy-duty sell job. You can call us the sellers of rock."

After playing six months in the small clubs and halls, doing their own music, their decision to play already accepted music came from the difficulty they had with people at the clubs who wanted the juke box, the top-40 hits. Their choice of U2 came easily. U2 was a band they all enjoyed. They see U2 as an unstructured band, and feel that the songs U2 provide can be worked to reflect their



Jeffrey Wm Coleman/Spoke

Fire Dance Overture lead singer Dave Robertson.

music and talent. "We essentially play ourselves."

The pub audience's reaction to their music, band members said, was encouraging. "Yeah, they're pretty open-minded here."

Despite the group's original appreciation for U2 they are

getting sick and tired of playing them and "maybe in six months" plan to start looking for a label.

Now their plans are to travel east, to Montreal, visit Halifax (maybe), and continue to tour Southern Ontario on a regular basis.

Dredringer a dead loss during Madness pub



Dredringer band bombs pub audience with poor imitation of top-40 groups.

Rodney Gilchrist/Spoke

By Rodney Gilchrist

Dredringer, the band that played the second half of the Summer Madness Pub on Thursday, April 10, at Conestoga's Doon campus, came and went without leaving much of an impression on the audience.

Dredringer is a Kingston, Ont. based, top-40 band, that has been together for nine months -- and shows it. Although the band makes an effort to come across as a professional outfit, band members need a lot of time and work before they become a polished act.

The Dredringer experience, was an exercise in tedium. The wasn't altogether bad, it just wasn't all together. The act came across much like the band came across in an interview -- uncertain.

Dredringer's lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist, Dawn Gibson, is the front-person on

stage, and spokesperson off stage. Gibson, who styles her stage image after the Wilson sisters from the band Heart, wasn't able to say just what (if any) plans the band has for the future.

"Right now we're just trying to get work," said Gibson. "But, we'll make it."

Andrew Szivos, a first-year computer programmer/analyst at Conestoga College's Doon campus, showed enthusiasm for at least one aspect of Dredringer.

"I thought the lead singer was great," said Szivos. "I loved watching her."

Whether or not Dredringer's lack of presence was induced by the crowd's pre-occupation with having a good time, or came from the band's own mediocre performance is a matter of opinion -- some liked them, some didn't like them, and some barely noticed them.

Rolling Stones album Dirty Work lacks quality

By Dave Williams

First it was Paul McCartney, then David Bowie and now Mick Jagger. It's amazing how once-great musicians can drop themselves into the pit of popular music with a clear conscience.

The Rolling Stones' latest album, *Dirty Works*, lacks a few of their superstar qualities, and instead, settles for a ho-hum plastic beat currently being overused by the countless dance-song groups.

Once coined the bad boys of

rock and roll, the Stones are now the boring boys of rock and roll. From a group that once brought originality, honesty and energy to their music comes a barrage of lifeless bumpity-bump mass-appeal monotones.

The drum beat barely changes throughout the album, making every song into a quasi-disco melodrama that would bore Moonies in mid-chant. I wouldn't be surprised if I heard this album while strolling through a shopping mall or riding in the elevator.

Record Review

As for the lyrics, they barely warrant comment. With such future song classics as *Harlem Shuffle* and *One Hit To The Body*, the Stones have assured their place in the former-greats-who-have-sold-out-to-be-popular-again Hall of Fame.

Like Ali, who just kept coming back, Jagger seems determined to destroy all credibility the Stones ever had. Maybe he's too old, rich and comfortable to produce songs with any

grit and realism. If he is, then he should quit the business and stop suckering old Stones' fans into buying paper-mache cutouts of the obviously defunct group.

Remember *Let It Bleed* and *Gimme Shelter*?

Turning popular works for Bowie, it's what he's always done. The Stones have their sound, their style and their image. This isn't to say that they shouldn't experiment, it's just that the audience shouldn't be subjected to a product that they obviously haven't even

tried on.

Perhaps Jagger thinks the same way McCartney does. He's made his mark and now he can sit back and crank out whatever type of pap he wants, to audiences that will always love the Stones. Well, love and patience only last so long and time is running out on a group that has taken advantage of past successes.

It may be too late to revive the Stones. If their last album is any indication, perhaps audiences should let them Rest In Peace.

SPORTS

Intramural Teams of the Week



Business Blues

Business Blues are the women's intramural floor hockey champions. Front, Debbie Shantz, Val Thompson, Karen Hayhurst, Jasvinder Tak. Back, Sandy Nay, Kim Elsby. Absent, Beth Paleczny, Debbie Ward.



Hawks II

Hawks II are the intramural non-contact hockey champions. Front (left to right), Pete Kingston, Tim Peart, Ken McGuinness. Middle, Teresa Krul, Wendy Zettel. Back, Eian Campbell, Doug Greenway, John France. Absent: Joanne Sims, Dave Johnson, Carol Van Paemel.

Conestoga Centre holds OFSAA gymnastics final

By Bruce Lacey

Conestoga Centre's gymnasium was transformed into an eight-ring circus when the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) held its gymnastics championships there April 11 and 12.

Some 487 girls from secondary schools around Ontario competed on 13 regional teams. They were grouped in six classes, ranging from beginners (juniors) to girls with several years competitive experience (club A).

The girls competed in four events: vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercises. Throughout the meet, two of the six classes competed simultaneously, so fans had their choice of eight different performances at any one time.

Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association (CWOSSA) gymnasts won more medals than any other team. CWOSSA gymnast Martha Janovich won four titles, including the overall gold medal in the highest class, club A.

Each event was scrutinized by four Ontario Gymnastic Federation judges. Performances were marked out of 10. High and low scores were dropped and the middle scores averaged to give a final mark.

The judges' criteria were execution (40 per cent), difficulty (30 per cent), composi-

tion (25 per cent) and a five per cent bonus for what meet co-convenor Kaarina Tulisalo called "sureness . . . how confident the girl is in performing her routine."

Vault judge Shelley Lefler said the difference of one- or two-tenths of a point in judges' scores for the same performance often reflects their interpretation of a mistake. One judge may consider a slip more critical than another judge, so she will deduct more points.

Of the four marking criteria, Lefler found the greatest variance, among the girls, is in execution.

"By the time they get here, they have most of their composition and difficulty," she said, adding that the quality of performances at the meet improves each year. Lefler has judged gymnasts for three years.

Barb Smith, OFSAA organizing committee member in charge of promotion, estimated that 100 coaches and 45 judges worked at the meet, as well as 40 T-shirt personnel who cleaned the apparatus, served as guides, and worked to prevent delays. For example, T-shirt personnel cleared non-competing girls from the floor exercise area so competition could begin.

Chloe Calleneer of St. Mary's high school in Kitchener is a first-year CWOSSA coach. She said her girls had been exercis-

ing since October. Apparatus work began after Christmas.

Taped music, synchronized to the floor exercises, was a feature of the meet. It ranged from honky-tonk and disco-style Mozart to TV themes, such as Miami Vice. Calleneer said the girls select their own music.

"The smaller girls use quicker, finer music," she said, adding that the girl's personality and routine are also factors in her decision.

One of the key elements of the meet was team spirit, manifested in hugs, advice and screams of encouragement. Although the girls come from different schools, Calleneer said, "When they get here, they know we are competing as a region. They become as one person."

Of the meet, she said, "They're (the girls) a little frightened at first, but that's where the team comes in . . . they cheer each other up."

Calleneer said that high school gymnastics programs "need more oomph, more support." Except in an Olympic year, "the peak time for gymnastics interest," she said that gymnasts have difficulty vying with other athletes for gym time.

Calleneer used to teach dance, but said she's "converted (to gymnastics). The kids make you . . . they're so keen."

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